

FROM WASHINGTON.

PASSAGE OF THE REVENUE BILL.

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THE FRAUDULENT FLOYD ACCEPTANCES.

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The Plea of the Paper Manufacturers.

The Casting of Copperheads in the Senate.

The Price of Negroes in Missouri.

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Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Feb. 13, 1863.

PASSAGE OF THE REVENUE BILL.

Only one amendment was made by the Senate to the Ways and Means bill, as reported from the Finance Committee, which finally passed by a vote of 32 to 4—the dissenters being Senators Carlile, Powell, Edmonds, and Wall. This amendment is to the section taxing bank circulation, which, as finally agreed to by a vote of 20 to 16, imposes a tax of one-half of one per cent semi-annually on the whole average circulation up to April 1, 1863, and one per cent semi-annually thereafter.

THE FRAUDULENT FLOYD ACCEPTANCES.

The discharge of the Judiciary Committee by the House to-day, from further consideration of the measure of Messrs. Pierce & Bacon, in the matter of the Floyd acceptances, leaves the opinion of the Attorney-General to the effect that the Government is not liable upon these acceptances unimpeached.

STRENGTHENING THE ARMY.

It is rumored in military circles that a plan will be adopted to increase the regular army and key up the *esprit de corps* of the volunteer service by a law authorizing commanding generals to transfer entire volunteer regiments to the regular service in reward of bravery on battle-fields. It is said that a clause will be inserted in the act, excluding from this transfer officers of the regiments absent from their posts.

THE PLEA OF THE PAPER MANUFACTURERS.

The paper manufacturers' embassy, admitted before the Ways and Means Committee to-day, denied boldly the charge that they had combined to put up the price of paper, confessed to their association, and ascribed to it the object of mutual improvement in the art of making paper—making and nothing else—changed the newspapers with excluding them from a defense before the public, vowed that their business was not a profitable one, ascribed the rise of paper wholly to the increase of the price of rags, and asserted that the duty on paper was necessary to their business which was so unremunerative and risky that seven-eighths of the manufacturers had failed in the last few years.

The Committee were unquestionably impressed by the statements and arguments of these gentlemen. It is thought that they changed votes.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AN AFRICAN ARMY.

Senator Wilson made a report to-day adverse to the House bill providing for the organization of an African army, on the ground that the law of the last session confers all the powers in the premises covered by the bill.

PAY OF INSPECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

Senator Fessenden reported from the Judiciary Committee to-day a bill making the compensation of Inspectors of Customs of the port of New-York \$1 a day from and after the 1st of January, 1863.

THE DEBATE IN THE SENATE—COPPERHEADS ROASTED.

In the midst of the discussion in the Senate on the Ways and Means bill to-day, a series of passes at arms were interjected, which excited the liveliest interest in the unusually crowded galleries. Senator Fessenden's admirable reproof of Senator Powell left little of that seemingly irreconcileable Copperhead. Senator Chandler's vehement and eloquent philippic in response to Senator Richardson against Retzels and their allies, North as well as South, called forth frequent applause.

FOREIGN SEED WHEAT.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has received the Maridan wheat purchased for the Department by Col. E. J. Johnson during his recent sojourn in England as a Commissioner to the International Exhibition. A very choice Spring variety, highly popular in the North of England. It will be judiciously distributed by the Department.

THE PROPOSED MEDIATION.

A distinguished Massachusetts statesman, not now in public life, in a private letter written weeks ago, expressed regret that England and Russia had not accepted the proposition of Napoleon to mediate in our affairs in order that an opportunity might be afforded to state the case of the country authorities to the civilized world.

PRICE OF SLAVES IN MISSOURI.

A Senator received a dispatch yesterday from Springfield, Mo., stating that at an auction which had just taken place, slaves had been sold at \$10 apiece the same day, but before the dispatch was received the Senate was voting an appropriation of \$200 a head for the emancipation of slaves in Missouri.

There is still an opportunity to amend the bill in the House so as to cut down the total appropriation from twenty millions to ten millions, and to require Emancipation to be absolute and immediate.

THE COLLISION BETWEEN SECRETARIES WELLER AND SEWARD.

When the correspondence between Secretaries Weller and Seward is published, if it ever be, it certainly will be found to have the characteristics we have ascribed to it, notwithstanding the denial that *The Times* has been directed to make of it.

CAPTURE OF A REVEREND RIFELER.

The Rev. Dr. Wilmer, once of Philadelphia, and an eminent and shining light in Episcopacy, now of Jackson and the Rebel Church South, is in grief in the Capital Prison. His flight to Richmond with twenty trunks, last year, is history. In company with two British noblemen this week ventured to return North.

They dropped him on the Chesapeake shore. He was taken in his solitary voyage across and brought here to the War Department and questioned and searched. His sermon-book, greatly to Wilmer's astonishment, betrayed letters of introduction from Gen. Davis to Shiloh, and other Rebel beauties abroad. The lining of the divine's coat, more to his astonishment, developed Confederate bonds and currency.

He could not imagine how they got there. His papers fully accredited him as the representative of the Episcopal Church South to the Church of England. His pious mission which was to wedge in recognition upon a religious basis, ended in the War

New-York Tribune.

VOL. XXII.—NO. 6,822.

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1863.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

Department by an order for his incarceration, on the heel of the ruin of his reputation for veracity by a witness that had heard him read prayers in Richmond, for our dearly beloved President, Jefferson Davis—a witness called to confound his positive statement that he had been entirely neutral during his unwilling stay in Rebeldom.

LEAVES AND FURLoughs, RESIGNATIONS, PASSES, &c.

The following orders have been issued:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
GENERAL ORDERS, No. 10—Corps Commanders may make such changes in officers and furloughs to enlisted men, observing strictly the provisions of General Orders No. 2, from the Headquarters Jan. 20, 1862, except as far as leaves of absence are concerned, as will be deemed necessary for the convenience of their respective departments, to devolve and carry, approved by the heads of their departments at these Headquarters, and not more than one-half officer of each department will be permitted to be absent from a division or corps at any time.

The following orders have been issued:

THE NATIONAL BANKING BILL.

The House has done nothing more as yet with the Senate National Banking bill than order it to be printed.

GEN. HAMILTON IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Gen. A. J. Hamilton of Texas will attend the Union Convention to be held at Manchester, N. H., on the 17th inst.

THE BRITISH BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

Lord Huntington and Col. Leslie, who recently ran the blockade from Virginia into Lower Maryland, came near being captured by the Potowmack flotilla. The third one of the party, however, the Rev. D. K. Wilmer, who was crossing the River in another boat, was arrested and brought to Washington. On his person was found a pass from Gen. Winder for all three of them. Lord Huntington, it is understood, could have immediately crossed the lines under flag of truce; but the extension of a similar privilege to Col. Leslie, he being a British officer, was necessarily delayed.

No officer or soldier will give this Army under orders, unless such orders are given through the proper ranking officer.

IV. Corps commanders, under Paragraph 1,447, Army Regulations, may accept resignations of regimental officers of the volunteer service when accompanied by sufficient certificates of rank and date of entry, and by a certificate of good conduct, where it plainly appears that the officer is unfit for his station, and can be replaced by one better qualified to discharge his duties. Resignations of medical officers will only be accepted upon the approval of the Medical Director of this Army.

V. Corps Commanders shall be held responsible for the proper condition, strength of the passes issued, and their correct execution, on the right and left.

VI. A full register of all officers and men, absent on leave, furlough, or on account of sickness, will be kept at the Headquarters of each corps, and the names of all absentees will be constantly examined by officers inspecting the regiments and abstracts will be sent to Corp. Headquarters, every Saturday. Corp. Commanders will carefully examine the same, as to the Headquarters, names of unauthorized absences. A register of deserters will be kept at Regimental Headquarters, and an account of the same transmitted weekly to Corp. Commanders.

VII. General Officers of the Day, and Staff Officers at Corps Headquarters, will be required to keep a register of all persons living in the vicinity of their Headquarters, and to furnish the same to the Adjutant-General at these Headquarters or the Provost-Marshal.

Commanders of Army Corps, by their Assistant Adjutants-General, may give passes between Washington and places within the lines of our army to such officers and soldiers of their respective commands as are duly authorized to do so from their respective stations, and no other officer.

Passes will be kept by the Provost-Marshal at the Headquarters of each corps, embracing the names of all entries, furloughs, and bound for Baltimore, who number, the number of wagons, horses, and mules employed by each.

All paymasters, carriers, or messengers for officers' teams, &c., carrying the Headquarters to which they respectively belong.

All messengers, news agents, &c., and their location.

A corps of engineers will give to the persons therein named, the name of each corps, and the names of all persons for whom passes are issued, and permits for receiving or remitting the stores, or presentation of those approved by the Adjutant-General.

For the persons mentioned in class 6 will be limited to paymasters, carriers, and messengers for officers' teams, &c., and their business which was so unremunerative and risky that seven-eighths of the manufacturers had failed in the last few years.

The Department will be requested to issue to each Division, for newsagents, &c., and their location.

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All paymasters, carriers, and messengers not authorized to do so from their respective stations, and their location.

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